



Tennessee Crop Weather

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In Cooperation with Tennessee Department of Agriculture

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Week Ending May 15, 2011

LAPSE IN RAIN SETS OFF MOST PRODUCTIVE FARM WEEK OF THE SEASON

Dry weather early last week triggered a big round of productive fieldwork for Tennessee producers. The vast majority of the state had not seen 4 consecutive days of dry weather since early April. In areas where flood waters receded and fields had dried, farmers were busy planting field crops and cutting hay. Two-thirds of the state’s corn acreage was planted by week’s end. Producers were also able to make measureable gains in planting single-cropped soybean and cotton acreage for the first time this season, while hay cutting and tobacco transplanting also began in earnest last week. Although farmers made large increases in planted acreages last week, all spring field crops continued to lag behind normal progress. The winter wheat crop appeared to respond well to fungicide applications and was rated in mostly good condition after several weeks of excessive rainfall and flooding.

There was an average of 5 days suitable for fieldwork across the state last week. Topsoil moisture levels were rated 69 percent adequate and 31 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture levels were rated 61 percent adequate and 39 percent surplus. Temperatures averaged 3 to 5 degrees above normal. Precipitation levels were slightly below normal for West and Middle Tennessee, while East Tennessee received near-normal rainfall.

CROP PROGRESS					CONDITION					
Crop	This Week	Last Week	2010	Five Year Avg.	Item	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Percent					Percent					
Corn – Planted	67	42	92	90	Pastures	0	4	24	56	16
Corn – Emerged	43	29	83	78	Winter Wheat	1	4	17	56	22
Cotton – Planted	18	2	26	32						
Soybeans – Planted	10	1	18	18						
Hay – First Cutting	18	4	18	19						
Tobacco – Transplanted	12	n/a	14	15						
Winter Wheat – Headed	98	91	88	94						
Winter Wheat – Turning Color	9	n/a	3	9						

n/a = not available

County Agent Comments

“Wheat not affected by flooding continues to progress well. All acres headed but none turning color yet. Farmers are rushing this week to plant or replant this week everywhere but the delta bottomland which is still under water. A few producers have actually planted some cotton acres this week.”

Tim Campbell, Dyer County

“Some corn planting got started this week with the Tennessee river receding back to its banks. Farmers have harvested some hay this week and most have processed or worked their cattle before they get started planting their crops.”

Steve Glass, Decatur County

“The farmers in Fayette County were busy this week planting, corn, milo and cotton. This has been a busy week due to all the moisture we have received. Corn, wheat and pastures/hayfields look good. Some disease is showing up in the wheat, but that was expected due to the wet conditions we experienced.”

Jeffery D. Via, Fayette County

“Sunshine and warm temperatures helped to dry wet fields and planters started to roll in the first big push of the delayed planting season. Corn producers made great efforts to plant upland corn before the 15th of the month. Showers on Friday halted most field activities. Some minor acreage of soybeans and grain sorghum were planted late week. Producers were able to get a few good days of drying weather to harvest hay as well.”

Jeff Lannom, Weakley County

“Seasonable to above normal temperatures allowed fields to dry enough for producers to catch up on much needed field work. The wheat crop continues to look good, despite the conditions the crop has been through. No major problems seen at this time and most producers are hoping fungicide applications are going to pay off. A number of producers reported to have finished corn planting except for a few acres that had drowned out or are still under water”

Ed Burns, Franklin County

“A mostly rain-free week gave way for progress in corn planting this week. Hay harvest picked up momentum.”

John Wilson, Blount County

TEMPERATURES AND PRECIPITATION
For week ending: May 15, 2011 (with comparisons)

LOCATION	TEMPERATURE				PRECIPITATION					
	Week Ending May 15, 2011				Current Week 5/15/11	Rain Days	Current Since January 1	Departure From Normal January 1	Current Since April 1	Departure From Normal April 1
	HI	LO	AVG	DFN						
West										
Ames_Plantation	90	50	72	5	0.95	3	28.65	6.56	16.13	7.81
Brownsville_TN	89	52	73	5	1.65	2	32.39	10.38	19.81	11.60
Covington	87	52	71	4	2.14	2	33.73	11.76	22.04	13.75
Dyersburg	90	54	73	5	0.52	2	28.29	8.38	15.12	8.03
Huntingdon_Wate	89	52	72	7	0.92	3	32.46	11.49	18.15	10.94
Jackson_Exp_Stn	90	54	73	7	1.35	3	29.90	8.80	18.06	10.24
Lexington_TN	88	52	71	6	1.13	3	26.50	6.15	14.97	7.81
Martin	90	52	72	7	0.75	2	33.64	12.96	17.19	9.75
Memphis_AG	90	54	74	5	0.73	2	31.75	10.22	20.13	12.09
Milan	89	52	73	8	1.31	3	33.04	11.81	19.09	11.48
Paris	88	51	70	6	0.68	3	35.84	15.19	19.85	12.71
Savannah_6SW	90	51	73	5	1.66	3	30.15	6.37	15.61	7.29
Selmer	91	52	74	9	0.87	3	28.51	4.92	16.18	7.83
Union_City	87	52	71	6	0.96	2	32.29	11.90	17.12	9.91
Middle										
Clarksville_Sew	88	51	71	7	0.92	3	32.33	12.12	17.92	11.36
Cookeville	86	52	69	7	0.94	2	31.38	9.03	14.91	7.59
Crossville_AP	84	50	69	8	0.58	4	23.96	1.58	9.31	1.95
Dickson_AG	87	50	68	3	1.43	4	29.63	8.04	14.46	6.88
Dover_1W	88	51	70	7	0.89	3	37.70	16.56	21.11	13.87
Fayetteville_TN	89	54	71	7	0.54	4	28.10	5.65	11.42	4.25
Jamestown	85	49	68	6	1.20	2	31.25	10.51	13.60	6.70
Kingston_Spring	89	52	71	8	1.38	3	25.26	4.45	12.17	5.33
Lawrenceburg_Fl	89	52	71	8	1.03	3	27.48	4.19	14.67	7.20
Lewisburg	90	50	69	6	0.78	3	29.19	7.14	13.93	6.46
Linden	88	52	71	7	1.79	3	28.14	5.56	15.30	7.71
Livingston_WLIV	87	52	70	7	1.00	3	33.68	13.35	14.59	7.78
Murfreesboro_5N	89	51	71	6	0.62	3	25.59	4.69	11.61	4.49
Nashville_Metro	89	52	72	6	0.43	3	23.00	3.98	10.55	3.77
Oneida	88	47	67	7	0.56	2	31.59	10.71	12.76	5.75
Portland_TN	89	46	71	7	0.42	3	29.25	9.10	13.21	6.36
Pulaski_Water_P	86	51	70	3	0.93	3	28.84	6.50	14.05	7.10
Shelbyville	89	51	70	4	0.69	4	28.62	6.53	12.25	5.04
Sparta_TN	89	52	71	8	0.86	2	27.82	6.02	12.14	4.91
Springfield	88	50	72	8	0.37	3	28.24	8.70	13.97	7.30
Springhill	90	47	70	7	0.49	3	24.29	1.83	11.93	4.08
Tullahoma	87	51	68	3	0.68	3	25.26	1.78	11.23	3.72
East										
Chattanooga/Lov	91	57	74	9	0.36	1	28.46	6.23	10.07	3.57
Cleveland_6NNE	89	55	71	7	0.26	2	22.88	0.57	8.45	1.70
Dayton	88	56	72	7	0.19	2	27.42	4.26	10.72	3.58
Erwin_1W	85	51	68	8	1.79	3	20.77	3.05	9.26	3.05
Gatlinburg_2SW	89	53	70	9	0.43	3	23.43	2.73	8.98	2.22
Greeneville	88	52	69	7	1.13	3	17.58	1.59	6.96	1.66
Kingston_AG	88	57	72	10	0.17	1	26.73	3.51	10.28	3.14
Knoxville_AP	86	57	73	9	0.07	2	24.02	5.02	10.06	4.38
Newcomb	89	54	70	10	0.71	2	25.16	4.28	10.65	3.64
Norris_4NE	87	51	70	8	0.37	2	26.04	5.68	9.49	3.02
Tri-City_RGNL_A	85	48	69	8	2.76	3	20.94	5.42	8.19	3.04

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period). Rain Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more during the week. Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.
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